

Interview with Giorgio from Italy - BLC “Beat the volcano” competition winner

Thursday 5th August 2010

Magdalena: Giorgio, thank you for your time. Tell us please, what made you think of this idea?

Giorgio: First of all I connected the fact that Genoa and Bristol are both sea cities. I thought that it has to be an easy way of getting to Bristol through sea and after I made a research I thought travelling by boat will be the most original way.

Magdalena: Who has helped you in submitting your idea?

Giorgio: My Dad has helped me with e-mailing and access to internet. I had a discussion about my idea first and what to write, then I have found ferry service links on the internet.

Magdalena: How did you find out about competition?

Giorgio: My parents booked my Summer Junior course at The Bristol Language Centre and short time after they informed me about the summer competition and I wanted obviously to take part.

Magdalena: Thank you for the interview Giorgio and good luck with your future language studies.

Giorgio: You are very welcome.



Magdalena and Giorgio at The BLC after interview and prize handing

Giorgio's idea - "Beat the volcano" BLC competition

THE IDEA

I am really concerned about delays to air travel to the UK because of possible volcanic ash emission. So I planned an alternative way to get to the Bristol Language Centre on time in order to avoid any trouble due to flight restrictions. I soon realized that luckily I live in Genova, a sea-town like Bristol. Such a condition allows me to travel always on the sea from departure to arrival and get a new experience in life of board.

My search of a boat lead me to find out that Grimaldi Lines, a maritime company specialized in freight travel, offers the possibility of passengers carriage on cargo vessels for a limited number of persons. Passengers can travel almost side by side the crew and taste the same menu prepared by standard merchant navy cooking.

I think it must be an exciting experience for young people who have a lot of time to spend in vacation in summer. Departures are scheduled every Friday from Savona, a town near Genova, and the travel lasts one week. I shall start on Friday, the 16th of July and arrive in the Portbury Dock on Friday, the 23th of July. You can check the schedule in the timetable enclosed hereby.



All sources: <http://www.grimaldi-freightercruises.com/index.htm>

Euro Med Service

Home

MASTER ITINERARY Weekly departures						
Port	Day	Round Voyages				
Southampton, UK	0 Sat	▼	SOU			
Salerno (2), Italy	8 Sat	▼	▼		SA2	
Piraeus, Greece	10 Mon	▼	▼		▼	
Izmir, Turkey	11 Tue	▼	▼		▼	
Ashdod, Israel	13 Thu	▼	▼		▼	
Limassol, Cyprus	14 Fri	▼	▼		▼	
Alexandria, Egypt	15 Sat	▼	▼		▼	
Salerno, (1) Italy	21 Fri	▼	▼	SA1	SA1	
Savona, Italy	22 Sat	▼	▼	▼		
Setubal, Portugal	25 Tue	▼	▼	▼		
Bristol\Portbury, UK	27 Fri	▼	POR	▼		POR
Cork, Ireland	28 Sat	▼		▼		▼
Esbjerg, Denmark	30 Mon	▼		▼		▼
Wallhamn, Sweden	32 Wed	▼		▼		▼
Antwerp, Belgium	34 Fri	▼		▼		▼

Southampton, UK	35	Sat	▼		▼	SA2		SOU
Applicable fare code ➔			R01	R02	R03	R04	R05	

Port	Day	Single Journeys														
Southampton	0 Sat	W I Avr Sou	W Avr Sou	W Avr Sou	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼							
Salerno	8 Sat	Sa2	▼	▼	Sa2	▼	▼	Sa2								
Piraeus	10 Mon		Ath	▼		Ath	▼	▼					Ath	Ath	Ath	
Izmir	11 Tue		Izm	▼		Izm	▼	Izm					Izm	Izm	Izm	
Ashdod	13 Thu		Ash	▼		Ash	▼	Ash					Ash	Ash	Ash	
Limasso	14 Fri		Qli	▼		Qli	▼	Qli					Qli	Qli	Qli	
Alexandria	15 Sat			▼			▼	Aly					▼	▼	▼	
			Aly	▼		Aly	▼						▼	▼	▼	
Salerno	21 Fri			Sa1			Sa1	Sa1	Sa1	Sa1			Sa1	▼	▼	
Savona	22 Sat							Sav	Sav	Sav			Sav	▼	▼	
				Sav		Sav		▼	▼	▼				▼	▼	
Setubal	25 Tue							Xsz	▼	▼	Xsz	Xsz		Xsz	▼	
									▼	▼	▼	▼		▼	▼	
Bristol\Portbury	27 Fri								Por	▼	Por	▼		Por	▼	
Cork	28 Sat								Ork	▼	Ork	▼		Ork	▼	
Esbjerg	30 Mon									Esb		Esb			Esb	
Wallhamn	32 Wed									Wal		Wal			Wal	
Antwerp	34 Fri									Avr		Avr			Avr	
Southampton	35 Sat										Sou		Sou		Sou	
Applicable fare code ➔		S03	S05	S07	S04	S06	S08	S02	S01	S02	S04	S01	S03	S02	S05	S07

Master itinerary, always subject to modification even without previous notice. Port rotation may vary

Notes: no passengers are accepted to/from Alexandria and Civitavecchia
no vehicles are accepted for disembarkation in Bristol/Portbury

PASSENGERS per person		
Type of journey ➔	Single	Circular

↓ type of cabin	Fare code →	EM 1	EM 2	EM 3	EM4	EM5	EM6	EM7	EM8	ER1	ER2	ER3	ER4	ER 5
INSIDE CABINS														
BI2	2 berths	235	329	470	611	752	893	1.08 1	1.22 2	1.55 1	1.22 2	987	658	32 9
DI2	2 beds	305	427	610	793	976	1.15 9	1.40 3	1.58 6	2.01 3	1.58 6	1.28 1	854	42 7
BI1	Single use	390	546	780	1.01 4	1.24 8	1.48 2	1.79 4	2.02 8	2.57 4	2.02 8	1.63 8	1.09 2	54 6
DI1	Single use	405	567	810	1.05 3	1.29 6	1.53 9	1.86 3	2.10 6	2.67 3	2.10 6	1.70 1	1.13 4	56 7
OUTSIDE CABINS														
DES	1 bed + 1 sofa	380	532	760	988	1.21 6	1.44 4	1.74 8	1.97 6	2.50 8	1.97 6	1.59 6	1.06 4	53 2
BE1	Single use	490	686	980	1.27 4	1.56 8	1.86 2	2.25 4	2.54 8	3.23 4	2.54 8	2.05 8	1.37 2	68 6
DE1	Single\single use	490	686	980	1.27 4	1.56 8	1.86 2	2.25 4	2.54 8	3.23 4	2.54 8	2.05 8	1.37 2	68 6
OWNER'S CABINE outside														
EEM	Large bed	490	686	980	1.27 4	1.56 8	1.86 2	2.25 4	2.54 8	3.23 4	2.54 8	2.05 8	1.37 2	68 6
TRIPLE CABINS														
DI3	Triple inside	267	373	533	393	853	1.01 3	1.22 7	1.38 7	1.76 0	1.38 7	1.12 0	747	37 3

For journey of duration 10 days or less, bookings can only be made 10 days prior to expected sailing date.

No embarkation allowed: Alexandria, Civitavecchia, Savona

No disembarkation allowed: Alexandria, Civitavecchia, Savona

No vehicles accepted to/from Bristol-Portbury

VESSELS & TYPE OF CABINS AVAILABLE

Vessel	Type of cabin	Cabin code for occupation by		
All cabins dispose of shower and WC Uppers berths are folding (except Grande Ellade)		2 pax	1 pax	3° pax
Gran Bretagna Grande Europa Grande Mediterraneo	➤ Inside, one lower & one upper berth	BI2	BI1	-
	➤ Inside, one low bed	-	BE1	-
	➤ Owners, outside, bed-room, with large-bed (130 cm), sitting room, tub-bath, WC	EEM	-	-
Grande Ellade Grande Scandinavia	➤ Inside, two low beds	DI2	DI1	-
	➤ Inside, two low beds & one uppers berth (folding on Scandinavia, fix on Ellade)	DI2	DI1	TER
	➤ Outside, one low bed & one convertible sofa	DES	DE1	-
	➤ Owners, outside, bed-room with large-bed (140 cm), sitting room, tub-bath, WC	EEM	-	-

Maximum 12 pax on all vesse

PASSENGER ACCOMPANIED VEHICLES

Only for vehicles registered for transport of persons <i>in Euro</i> Fare code ↓	V1 Cars up to 5 m (max height 1,9 m)	V4 Camper, and vehicles up to 7,5m length, Max height 3.3m, width 2.4m	ML Vehicles exceeding one the measures by linear meter (rounded up to next ½m)	MO Motorcycle Scooter
EM1,EM2,EM3	340	550	145	145
EM4,EM5	400	700	180	180
EM6,EM7,EM8	650	850	210	210

*Rounded up next half meter.

All cost arising for embarking and disembarking the vehicle, for custom, clearance documentation or other

are at the passenger's expense and have to be paid on the spot. If local use does not allow the

vehicle to be driven on or off the vessel by the passenger, all stevedoring cost to be paid the passenger on the spot.

All fares and information subject to change even without previous notice.
NB: No pets are allowed on board.

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The best view with MS IE 5.0 1024x768.

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THE IDEA

As I said before, I like this travel very much because it offers a life on board similar to the life of the sailors.

The Master is the authority that decides if you are eligible for the journey: you must not smoke and drink too much in the ship and you have to respect the safety rules during the navigation. You will find every details hereby.

USEFUL INFORMATION BEFORE BOOKING

Read carefully our brochure or web-site, including the general conditions, in order to know what type of Journey or holiday you are going to purchase.

BEFORE DEPARTURE

Remember a few rules and obligations for travelling with us:

- make sure you are okay with your passport and visa (if necessary)
- for South America and West Africa, you need an International Certificate of Vaccination against Yellow Fever
- the age limit for travelling with us is 85 years, at the time of embarkation.
- if you are 79 or over, you will need a doctor's certificate stating that you are fit to travel on a cargo vessel
- you need compulsory travel health insurance
- 6\5 days before the estimate day of departure you have to contact our port agent to get confirmation of sailing day and information about time and place of departure
- if you are travelling with a vehicle, make sure all documents are okay for disembarking the vehicle at the port of destination

LIFE ON BOARD

You are travelling on board a cargo vessel. While you are of course a welcomed guest, bear in mind that the Master, the officers and the crew have to comply with their daily duty and routine to run the vessel and while in port to unload and load the cargo. The service we can provide for you, compared with pure passenger vessels, is necessarily somewhat limited. However be assured that all personnel involved will do its utmost to make you feel comfortable and happy on board the vessel. All persons travelling on board the vessel are subject to the general discipline, safety and security rules as established by the Company and for the Master.

BOOKS

There is only a limited availability of books on board, and not always in the language you are most familiar with or the type of books you enjoy reading. The suggestion is to bring you own books, plenty of them if you are on a longer journey. Include some good guide-books of the places you will visit, this helps to organize your shore leaves

DRESSING CODE

The vessel you are travelling on is of comfortable size that allows safe sailing under all conditions. For your safety and comfort we suggest not wearing shoes with high wheels or beach sandals. Even in good sea conditions a sudden movement of the vessel is possible and very often the outer deck is wet. Dressing is casual, but remembers that on our vessels there are certain unwritten rules as far as dressing is concerned. The Master, the officers and the crew appreciate when passengers too follow these rules:

- no bathing suit or beach ware should be worn in the mess room and the lounge
- do not enter the bridge in beach ware or bathing suit

BRIDGE

Under the ISPS code the bridge is a restricted area, where in general access cannot be allowed. We appreciate that our passengers enjoy staying on the bridge, but please ask the Master for authorization for any visit to the bridge. Please respect the dressing code.

AREAS OFF LIMIT

There are areas of the vessel where passengers are not allowed, unless previously authorized by the Master (or person designated) and accompanied by a member of the ship's personnel: the Garage (while at sea), the Kitchen, the Engine Room and in general all working areas.

MEALS

Are served in the officers' mess. You will be informed of the meal hours for breakfast, lunch and dinner by the Master (or person designated by him). Please respect the meal hours. No meals can be served in your cabin. Meals are prepared by a standard navy cook, and reflect the preferences and the necessities of the crew. Special diets are not possible.

YOUR CABIN

Will be cleaned and made-up daily. This work is generally done in the earlier part of the morning. Please remember that the steward may only make-up your cabin if he finds it accessible. Later on during the day the steward has other duties and will not be able to clean and make-up the cabin. On some hectic days you might have to take care yourself of the cabin. Your co-operation is appreciated.

LIFT

Since our vessels are Ro \Ro or Co\Ro, cabins and passenger facilities are located on decks 9 to 12 (depending on the vessel). All our vessels have a lift. But in case of breakdown of the lift, you should be able to get up or down the stairs, that are steep and narrow.

ELECTRIC CURRENT

220 Volts. The plugs are of Italian standard. Bring an adaptor, if necessary.

CURRENCY

The currency on board our vessels are:

- Euro, on the Italian flag vessels
- US\$, on the Swedish flag vessels

DECK CHAIRS

Are available on board on a self service basis

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The vessel is equipped with a state-of-the-art satellite telecommunications system.

- PHONE: You can use the phone to make calls ship-to-shore. You will have to pay for the cost of the call (remember satellite phone calls are rather costly).

- FAX: You can ask the Master to send a fax for you. You will have to pay for the cost of phone necessary to send the message.

- E-MAIL: You can send e-mails. No attachment is accepted. For each e-mail sent you will be charged a flat amount of 1 Euro. E-mails addressed to you on board from relatives and friends to the vessel's e-mail address are transmitted free of charge (there should be no attachments). If you receive a message with an attachment, you will have to pay for the cost of the satellite communication. This can be quite expensive. The Company has the right to block any message addressed to passengers with an attachment. The use of e-mail, phone and fax is at the Master's discretion. The vessel's communication system is not a public one. The Company and the Master have no obligation to let passengers use the system. In any case Company, safety and security matters have priority. Please note that your mobile phone will work only in ports or while sailing very close to the shore, and if your operator has a roaming agreement with a local mobile phone operator.

BEVERAGES

Are sold only in bottles or tins and are subject to being available on board. For purchases please address yourself to the cook. A price list is available on board. For reasons of safety on the workplace, supply of alcoholic beverages to the crew is forbidden. Therefore the vessel disposes only of very limited stock (both in quantity and in selection) of alcoholic beverages. Alcoholic beverage should be consumed with moderation. It is the Master's discretion to prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages to persons that, in his sole judgment, make abuse of it. It is not allowed to introduce on board alcoholic beverages purchased ashore.

LAUNDRY

There is a washing machine at your disposal for your personal laundry necessities.

TAKING PHOTOS

You may take pictures on board except in the garage or other cargo areas. In some ports it is not allowed to take pictures within the boundaries of the harbour.

PORTS OF CALL

You will go ashore at your own responsibility. You travel on board a cargo vessel. Ports of call, duration of calls and docking times are subject to cargo requirements. Our vessels run regular

services. However there is always the possibility that a port originally included in the schedule has to be dropped, or that the vessel runs one or more days behind schedule. But this is part of the game in Freighter Cruising. Before going ashore make sure to have proper and up -dated information about the time you have to be back on board. We suggest you leave your mobile phone number with the Master (or person designated). Herewith we are giving some basic, and hopefully useful information about going ashore. When going ashore, in order to enjoy a safe and pleasant visit, you should note the following safety tips:

- Beware of pickpockets who can be very clever. They often operate in pairs or more – one holding your attention while the other empties you pockets
- Do not carry large amounts of cash. Use a money belt, if you have one, when shopping. Never carry a purse, or your wallet in your back pocket. Backpacks should be carried in the front.
- Leave jewellery and watches safely onboard the ship, rather than wearing them ashore
- Never leave your belongings unattended.

SECURITY

- All persons boarding the vessel are subject to control and search
- All items carried on board will be checked.

PROBLEMS

If you have any problems or you feel dissatisfied you should speak to the Master or the Chief Mate. Whenever it is possible they will assist and help you.

IDEA PHOTOS



some pictures of the boats

